

REMARKS

This is a response to the June 29, 2007 Office Action in which Applicants are required to confirm a prior response to a first Restriction Requirement and to further elect between identified species for initial examination. Claims 1-50 are presently pending in the application. On March 29, 2007, Applicants' responded to an initial restriction requirement and elected claims 1-22, 33-41, and 42-50. Applicants' prior oral selection of these claims is affirmed by this written response. In view of this selection, claims 23-32 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In the July 29, 2007 Office action, the Examiner has also requested that Applicants elect between three different patentably distinct sets of species. The species are identified as Species a-c, with Species a being directed to the location of a treatment region (24), Species b being directed to the separation region (32), and Species c being directed to the vaporization feed stream(s) arrangement. Each of the individual species is identified in the Office action by a corresponding Figure from the application. As set forth in the Office action, Applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single one of each of the three species identified by the Examiner and to identify which of the claims is generic to or reads upon the elected species.

In response, Applicants elect Species a-4, b-1, and c-1, as set forth in the Office action. Applicants submit that claims 1-10, 15-19, 21-22, and 33-41 are generic to or read upon Species a-4. Applicants submit that all presently pending claims read upon or are generic to Species b-1 and Species c-1. In view of the above, Applicants understand that claims 11-14, 20, and 42-50 will be withdrawn from

consideration. Applicants understand that claims 11-14 and 20 will be returned to consideration upon allowance of a claim from which these claims depend. Should the withdrawal of claims 23-33 and 42-50 be the sole remaining issue after formal examination of the remaining claims, Applicants will be willing to cancel these claims without prejudice. Applicants further understand that prosecution of any of the non-selected and/or non-elected claims may be resumed in a related patent application.

With the above confirmation of Applicant's prior oral restriction requirement response and the above election of species for initial examination, Applicants submit that all of the issues raised in the first Office action have been addressed. If the Examiner has any questions or identifies any remaining issues that may be resolved in a telephone interview to advance prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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